

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A connector, comprising:

a housing ~~(10)~~ with opposite front and rear ends and cavities ~~(11)~~ extending into the rear end, insertion openings ~~(14)~~ being formed in the front end of the housing ~~(10)~~ for allowing parts of mating terminal fittings to be inserted into the cavities ~~(11)~~ a plurality of said cavities being arranged along an outer wall of the housing, the outer wall of the housing having a cut-away portion adjacent the front end of the housing and opening to the cavities arranged along the outer wall; and

a retainer ~~(40)~~ mountable into the housing ~~(11)~~ for locking terminal fittings ~~(30)~~ in the respective cavities ~~(11)~~, the retainer ~~(40)~~ including a main body ~~(41)~~ having locking sections ~~(43)~~ engageable with the terminal fittings ~~(30)~~, a front wall ~~(46)~~ supported substantially along the front end of the housing ~~(10)~~, through holes ~~(47)~~ formed in the front wall ~~(46)~~ and substantially corresponding to the insertion openings ~~(14)~~, at least one reinforcement ~~(52)~~ projecting at an angle to the front wall ~~(46)~~ and extending substantially in a transverse direction ~~(TD)~~, the reinforcement being accommodated in the cut-away portion.

2. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the retainer ~~(40)~~ comprises two supports ~~(44)~~ extending from opposite lateral sides of the main body ~~(41)~~, and the front wall ~~(46)~~ spanning between front edges of the supports ~~(44)~~ for locating the front wall ~~(46)~~ substantially along the front end of the housing ~~(10)~~.

3. (currently amended) The connector of claim 2, wherein at least one edge of the reinforcement ~~(52)~~ is coupled to the support ~~(44)~~.

4. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein a plurality of said cavities ~~(11)~~ are arranged along an outer wall ~~(18)~~ of the housing ~~(10)~~, each of said cavities ~~(11)~~ having a lock ~~(12)~~ for locking the corresponding terminal fitting ~~(30)~~, the locks ~~(12)~~ being located at a side opposite from the outer wall ~~(18)~~.

5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, further comprising a bulge ~~(53)~~ increasing thicknesses of the front wall ~~(46)~~ and the reinforcement ~~(52)~~ where the front wall ~~(46)~~ and the reinforcement ~~(52)~~ meet, the front wall ~~(46)~~ extending substantially in the transverse direction ~~(TD)~~.

7. (currently amended) The connector of claim 6, wherein the housing ~~(10)~~ has an accommodating portion ~~(17)~~ for at least partly accommodating the bulge ~~(53)~~.

8. (currently amended) The connector of claim 6, wherein the accommodating portion ~~(53)~~ communicates with front ends of the cavities ~~(11)~~, and the terminal fittings ~~(30)~~ inserted into the cavities ~~(11)~~ are held at their front-limit positions by contacting the bulge ~~(53)~~ accommodated in the accommodating portion ~~(17)~~.

9. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the housing ~~(10)~~ comprises at least one housing-side guide ~~(15)~~ and the front wall ~~(46)~~ comprises at least one guiding surface ~~(50)~~ configured and disposed so that the front wall ~~(46)~~ is guided by sliding contact of the housing-side guide ~~(15)~~ and the guiding surface ~~(50)~~ of the front wall ~~(46)~~ as the retainer ~~(40)~~ is moved.

10. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the front wall includes mold removal spaces aligned with the respective locks, and wherein the

through holes ~~(47)~~ of the retainer ~~(40)~~ substantially align with the insertion openings ~~(14)~~ and the front wall ~~(46)~~ of the retainer ~~(40)~~ substantially closes the mold-removal spaces ~~(13)~~ when the retainer ~~(40)~~ is in a locking position, where the retainer ~~(40)~~ locks the terminal fittings ~~(30)~~.

11. (currently amended) A connector, comprising:

a housing ~~(10)~~ with opposite front and rear ends and opposite sides, cavities ~~(11)~~ extending into the rear end along a forward and backward direction ~~(FBD)~~, the front end extending between the sides in a transverse direction ~~(TD)~~ substantially normal to the forward and backward direction ~~(FBD)~~, insertion openings ~~(14)~~ being formed in the front end of the housing ~~(10)~~ and extending into the cavities ~~(11)~~; and

a retainer ~~(40)~~ having an elongate main body ~~(41)~~ extending in the transverse direction ~~(TD)~~ and being mountable into the housing ~~(11)~~ for locking terminal fittings ~~(30)~~ in the respective cavities ~~(11)~~, the main body ~~(41)~~ having opposite sides substantially at the opposite sides of the housing ~~(10)~~, supports ~~(44)~~ extending from the opposite sides of the main body ~~(41)~~, a front wall ~~(46)~~ spanning between front edges of the supports ~~(44)~~ and supported substantially along the front end of the housing ~~(10)~~, through holes ~~(47)~~ formed in the front wall ~~(46)~~ and substantially corresponding to the insertion openings ~~(14)~~, at least one reinforcement ~~(52)~~ projecting at an angle from the front wall ~~(46)~~ and extending in the transverse direction ~~(TD)~~ between the supports ~~(44)~~.

12. (currently amended) The connector of claim 11, wherein the cavities ~~(11)~~ include a first stage of cavities ~~(11)~~ arranged along an outer wall ~~(18)~~ of the housing ~~(10)~~, the outer wall ~~(18)~~ having a cut-away ~~(19)~~ adjacent the front end of the housing ~~(10)~~, the reinforcement ~~(52)~~ being received in the cut-away ~~(19)~~.

13. (currently amended) The connector of claim 12, wherein the cut-away ~~(19)~~ exposes the first stage of cavities ~~(11)~~ adjacent the front end of the housing ~~(10)~~;

14. (currently amended) The connector of claim 13, wherein each of said cavities ~~(11)~~ has a lock ~~(12)~~ for locking the corresponding terminal fitting ~~(30)~~, the locks ~~(12)~~ in the first stage of cavities ~~(11)~~ being located at a side opposite from the cut-away ~~(19)~~.

15. (currently amended) The connector of claim 13, wherein the retainer ~~(40)~~ further comprises a bulge ~~(53)~~ increasing thicknesses of the front wall ~~(46)~~ and the reinforcement ~~(52)~~ where the front wall ~~(46)~~ and the reinforcement ~~(52)~~ meet.

16. (currently amended) The connector of claim 15, wherein the housing ~~(10)~~ has an accommodating portion ~~(17)~~ for accommodating the bulge ~~(53)~~.

17. (currently amended) The connector of claim 16, wherein the accommodating portion ~~(53)~~ communicates with front ends of the cavities ~~(11)~~, and the terminal fittings ~~(30)~~ inserted into the cavities ~~(11)~~ are held at front-limit positions by contacting the bulge ~~(53)~~ in the accommodating portion ~~(17)~~.